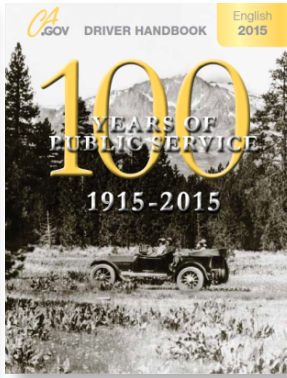
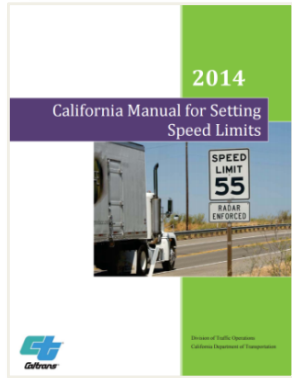


Do you still have some questions? Go to the Caltrans website at [www.dot.ca.gov](http://www.dot.ca.gov) and type "speed limits" in the search box to find the *California Manual for Setting Speed Limits*. Another web site to visit is the DMV at [www.dmv.ca.gov](http://www.dmv.ca.gov). Click on "Driver License" then DMV Publications" then "Driver Handbook". In the section called "Laws and Rules of the Road" is a subsection called "Speed Limits".



You can also contact the City's Traffic Engineering Division at (562) 570-6331.



Speed limits are enforced by the Long Beach Police Department. If you have an enforcement question or request, please contact the Patrol Bureau – Traffic at (562) 570-7209.

The City of Long Beach is committed to providing its citizens with the safest and most efficient transportation system possible. This pamphlet is designed to provide you with useful and helpful information regarding traffic control.



#### City of Long Beach Public Works

333 W. Ocean Blvd.  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Phone: (562) 570-6383

[www.longbeach.gov/pw/](http://www.longbeach.gov/pw/)

# SPEED LIMITS

An informational pamphlet on the proper use and setting of speed limits



CITY OF  
**LONG BEACH**

## CALIFORNIA BASIC SPEED LAW, HOW ARE SPEED LIMITS DETERMINED?

The primary legal justification for vehicle code enforcement in California is the California Vehicle Code (CVC). All cities base their speed regulations on the Basic Speed Law: "No person shall drive a vehicle at a speed greater than is reasonable or prudent and in no event at a speed which endangers the safety of persons or property".

Local authorities establish speed limits within set guidelines on the basis of engineering and traffic surveys. Such surveys must include an analysis of roadway conditions, collision records and a sampling of the prevailing speed of traffic.

The method of setting speed limits begins with a survey of the speeds at which motorists travel. The speed limit must be set at the first five-mile per hour increment below the 85th percentile speed. That is defined as the speed at or below which 85 percent of the traffic is moving.

## WHY ARE SOME SPEED SIGNS YELLOW?

Regulatory signs have black text on a white background and are signs that everyone must obey or be cited. Warning signs have black text on a yellow background. These signs warn motorists about road conditions like sharp turns, tunnels, intersections, and exit ramps.



## WILL LOWERING SPEED LIMITS REDUCE SPEEDING?

Although many people believe that simply lowering the speed limit is an easy way to stop speeding, it doesn't always work. Studies show that even when speed limits are lowered, people still drive at speeds that they believe to be reasonable and safe. When that happens, the road could become unsafe because some motorists follow the posted speed limit, and others drive at the speed they believe is best.

## HOW CAN SPEEDS BE LOWERED IN MY NEIGHBORHOOD?

Most complaints about speeding come from residential neighborhoods. If speeding is a problem in your area, contact the Police Department to have officers patrol the area. If that doesn't work, contact the city about "traffic calming measures".

Traffic Calming is a term used to describe methods for slowing down traffic. Some examples include: building a traffic circle, adding a median or extending the curbs into the street. See the Traffic Calming pamphlet for more information.

